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Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 HA-05 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00
ICAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAA-01 /068 W
----------106316 161223Z /53
O 161127Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9860

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 7815

E.O. 11652:GDS
TAGS: SHUM
SUBJ: WORLD CONFERENCE TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, GENEVA, AUGUST 14-25, 1978

REF: STATE 204786

1. I PRESENTED AIDE MEMOIRE (REFTEL) TO DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS JAFAR NADIM ON AUGUST 16. NADIM STATED THAT THE IRANIAN DELEGATION IS UNDER FIRM INSTRUCTIONS TO USE ITS EFFORTS SO THAT THE ISSUE WILL NOT BE DISCUSSED NOR COME TO A VOTE. HE NOTED THAT THIS ISSUE IS PARTICULARLY DIFFICULT FOR IRAN BECAUSE OF ITS FAVORABLE VOTE IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY. AT THAT TIME, IRAN'S DELEGATE TO THE THIRD COMMITTEE HAD GONE ALONG WITH THE RESOLUTION AND THE DELEGATION, THEREFORE, HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO VOTE IN FAVOR IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY. NADIM REMINDED ME THAT PERM REP HOVEYDA HAD GIVEN A CAREFUL EXPLANATION OF THE VOTE. THE SHAH, HE SAID, WAS FURIOUS WHEN HE WAS INFORMED OF THE ACTION IN THE THIRD COMMITTEE AND HAD PERSONALLY INSTRUCTED THAT AN EXPLANATION OF VOTE BE GIVEN.

2. HOWEVER, NADIM SAID, IF A RESOLUTION WERE PRESSED TO A VOTE-- WHICH HE DID NOT BELIEVE LIKELY--IRAN WOULD FIND IT NECESSARY, RELUCTANTLY, TO VOTE IN FAVOR. I
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STRESSED TO HIM THE GREAT IMPORTANCE OF THIS MATTER AND THE IMPACT THAT SUCH A VOTE COULD HAVE IN THE U.S. I URGED HIM, AS A MINIMUM, TO CONSIDER ABSTAINING OR NOT BEING PRESENT FOR THE VOTE. HE SAID THAT HE WOULD REPORT OUR CONVERSATION TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND AGREED TO RESTUDY THE MATTER.

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3. COMMENT: A VOTE AGAINST A RESOLUTION, OR EVEN AN ABSTENTION, WILL BE DIFFICULT FOR THE GOI IN VIEW OF ITS DESIRE TO BE IN TUNE WITH THE ARAB STATES AND IN LIGHT OF ITS RECORD ON THE ISSUE TO DATE. ALSO, THE GOVERNMENT IS NOW BESET WITH SERIOUS AGITATION FROM CONSERVATIVE ELEMENTS, ONE OF WHOSE PRINCIPAL PLANKS IS STRIDENT ANTI-ZIONISM. THE GOVERNMENT MAY WELL NOT WISH TO ADD TO ITS PROBLEMS WITH THESE ELEMENTS. HOWEVER, IF WE SEE THAT THE ISSUE IS LIKELY TO GO TO A VOTE, PLEASE INFORM US SOONEST SO THAT WE CAN WEIGH IN AGAIN.
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Message Attributes

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Litigation History:
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